Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1870

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE, UR

SUBJECT: CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST IN FEBRUARY ECPC

ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE GDR INSTITUTE OF

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS CLOSE TO THE GDR DRAFTING

COMMITTEE, THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS STILL HOPE TO

CONVENE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE BEFORE THE

CPSU 25TH CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY. THE INSTITUTE SOURCE

STRESSED THE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE

SOVIET DESIRE TO HAVE THE MEETING IN FEBRUARY IN ORDER TO

FACILITATE A REAFFIRMATION OF BREZHNEV'S POLICIES AT THE

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CPSU CONGRESS. HE SAID AN IMPASSE HAD BEEN REACHED

IN DECEMBER ON FIVE OR SIX MAJOR POINTS IN THE ECPC DRAFTING COMMITTEE, INCLUDING ON A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE, ADDING THAT THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS WOULD NOW ADVOCATE SIMPLY LEAVING OUT ALL SECTIONS OF THE DOCUMENT ON WHICH THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT AND WOULD SETTLE FOR A VAGUE APPEAL RATHER THAN A PROGRAMMATIC DOCUMENT. THROUGH THIS TACTIC THE GDR WOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON A SHORTENED TEXT AT THE NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING IN THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY TO ALLOW A QUICK TWO OR THREE DAY CONFERENCE IN EAST BERLIN IN THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY. THE SOURCE FELT THAT ALTHOUGH THEY STRONGLY DESIRED TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE BEFORETHE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS, THE SOVIETS WOULD RELUCTANTLY ACQUIESCE TO CONVENING THE CONFERENCE LATER IN THE SPRING IF THE ALTERNATIVE WERE NO MEETING AT ALL. GROVE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: COMMUNISTS, PARTY MEETINGS, PLANNING MEETINGS

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To: STATE

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